



girl scouts   
of suffolk county


Gold Award Girl Scouts  
*2022-2023 Yearbook*





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# About The Girl Scout Gold Award

*Problem solver. Go-Getter. World Changer. That's what it means to be a Gold Award Girl Scout.*

The Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and the preeminent leadership award for high school girls. A Gold Award Girl Scout, no matter her background or ability, learns to tap into the world-changing power within her. She identifies an issue that's important to her and develops and implements a sustainable solution with measurable impact for her community and beyond.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized leaders that set themselves apart through their perseverance and courage. As they take action to transform their world, they gain tangible, real world skills and prove they are the leaders that campuses and communities need.

Making the world a better place starts in a Girl Scout's heart. Gold Award Girl Scouts use their interests and passions to embrace challenges and make a difference. In reaching out to others, these young women learn about the talents and strengths within themselves.

We are exceedingly proud of these young women and offer our sincerest congratulations for all they have achieved. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and we confidently leave the future of Girl Scouting in their very capable hands.

# Honoring Young Women of Excellence

Dear Friends,

For 55 years, Girl Scouts of Suffolk County has shaped future leaders and innovators through learning the importance of courage, compassion, and community service. Gold Award Girl Scouts are doers and dreamers—determined to make the world a better place.

The Gold Award Girl Scouts of this year have made extraordinary strides to meet the needs of their communities through their Gold Award projects. These young women have shown that no matter the circumstances or hardships they may face, anything is possible when they put their minds to something.

Our Gold Award Girl Scouts continue to perfectly encapsulate the kind of character reflected within the Girl Scout mission. With their commitment and determination, our Gold Award Girl Scouts have worked tirelessly to address issues and invoke change within our communities. They have not only created positive, immediate impacts but long-lasting changes that will continue to better our communities.

On behalf of everyone at the Girl Scouts of Suffolk County, we thank our Gold Award Mentors, Girl Scout volunteers, and Girl Scout families for their continued support in assisting our girls through this highest achievement. Together, we have been able to support and shape the next generation of strong, tenacious, and courageous community leaders.

We are so proud of our exceptional Gold Award Girl Scouts and look forward to celebrating their future positive influences and triumphs.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tammy Severino".

Tammy Severino  
*President & CEO*



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Smeland".

Donna Smeland  
*Chair of the Board*



**Alena Berenblatt** has been active in Girl Scouts since 2005, serving as a Girl Scout Leader for her daughters' troop as well as Organizer, Fall Product Manager, Permit Manager and Coordinator for the Service Unit in Babylon Village. She attended the 2014 National Convention in Salt Lake City as a Council Delegate and the 2017 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, as a girl chaperone. Alena feels honored to be a Gold Award mentor and enjoys helping girls from around Suffolk County achieve the highest award in Girl Scouting



**Kathy Ciano** is a longtime Girl Scout, having attended a Wider Opportunity and achieved First Class as a young woman. She later volunteered as a Leader and has held Service Unit team positions such as Coordinator, Consultant, Organizer, Fall Product Manager and currently serves as a Council Trainer. She was awarded the 2021 Nancy Entenmann Award for her outstanding volunteerism and contributions to the council. She loves watching the girls' ideas come to life on the path to Gold and seeing them make a difference.



**Cheryl D'Agostino** was a Brownie Girl Scout, served as a Girl Scout Leader for both of her daughters and is the proud mother of two Gold Award Girl Scouts. She has volunteered in Service Unit 39 for many years as Coordinator, Registrar, Recruiter, and Campaign Manager. She attended the 2008 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana as a Council Delegate. She loves that being a Gold Award Support Team member allows her to watch girls take the journey toward becoming the best they can be.



**Colette Galvez** was a Girl Scout, is currently the Coordinator for Service Unit 46, and has been a leader for 10 years. She has served on her Service Unit Team in a variety of ways including Treasurer, Organizer, and Community Service Coordinator among others. Colette's passion for Girl Scouting is a wonderful asset to the Gold Award Support Team and to the girls who are "going for Gold."



**Victoria Genovese** was a Girl Scout from second through sixth grades, and a Troop Leader from first grade Brownies through Ambassador Girl Scouts with her daughter's troop. Her troop of 13 Ambassadors had 10 Girl Scouts earn their Gold Award, which proved to be an amazing experience. Because of this, Victoria became a Gold Award mentor in 2015 so she could continue to encourage girls on their Gold Award journey.



**Joan Godbold** has been a member of Girl Scouts since 1985, reaching Cadette level, leading her daughter's troop and volunteering as the Older Girl Consultant in the Port Jefferson area. Joan attended the National Convention as a Council delegate in 2005 and 2008, and as a girl chaperone in 2011. Joan became a Gold Award Support Team member to stay involved with older girls and to encourage them to continue in Girl Scouts.



**Mary Grizzle** has been active in Girl Scouts since 2008. She has been a troop leader for her daughter, Team Member and Service Unit Coordinator, among other roles. When her tenure as Service Unit Coordinator ended, Mary joined the Gold Award Support Team, and became a member of the Membership Advisory Committee. She enjoys mentoring girls as they work toward earning their Gold Award.



**Karin Kouril** was a troop leader for both of her daughters' troops in Northport-East Northport, and currently serves as a Service Unit Team Member. She was excited to be able to guide her daughters and many others through the completion of their Gold Award. Karin is proud to be a part of the Gold Award Support Team and to encourage girls to grow and make a positive difference in their community.



**Laverne Marri Perez** was a Cookie Manager and a Troop Leader/Advisor in West Babylon for several years. Once the 11 girls in her troop graduated, she chose to become a Gold Award mentor to inspire girls by guiding them to develop leadership skills and a lifetime of confidence. Girl Scouting is important to Laverne because she feels it is essential that girls know themselves by exploring the world.



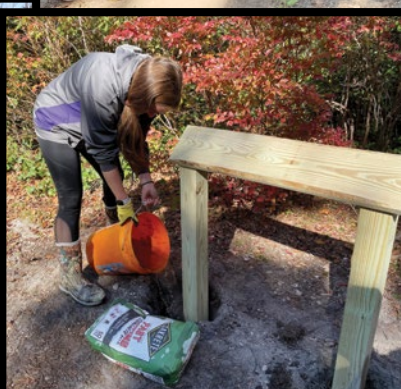
**Doryce Polanish** was a Brownie Girl Scout and leader for her daughter's troop for 13 years in the Commack area until her daughter earned her Gold Award. Her favorite thing about being a Gold Award Support Team member is seeing the pride and excitement each girl feels upon completing her project.



**Liz Sosulski** was a dedicated Girl Scout Leader and has held volunteer positions in the Smithtown, St. James and Nesconset areas that include Service Unit Coordinator, Treasurer and Organizer. A Gold Award Support Team member since 2006, Liz enjoys helping girls achieve their goals and the friendships she has formed on the team.



**Rose Vermillion** has been in Girl Scouts from first grade to twelfth grade. She has been a leader since 2006 with her oldest daughter, and continues to be a troop leader for her younger daughters. She was Service Unit Coordinator for 3 years, and now holds the Events Coordinator position on the team. Rose loved having the opportunity to guide Gold Award Girl Scouts towards their goal, and help motivate them to do the best they can to improve their community.







### OUR TOWNS

MILLER PLACE

# CRACKING THE CODE

Teen whiz enlists tech firms to narrow gender gap in coding, STEM

BY HILLARY ANDERSON

16-year-old Miller Place computer whiz is offering to teach coding, programming to other tech companies.

Felix Lindemann is a junior at Miller Place High School who's interested in computer business and technology. He's also a member of the school's robotics team. "I'm really into coding and STEM," he says. "I want to help other girls get into it too."

Lindemann is currently participating in summer programs. He's been offered a spot at a coding camp in New York City. He's also been offered a spot at a coding camp in Long Island. "I'm really into coding and STEM," he says. "I want to help other girls get into it too."

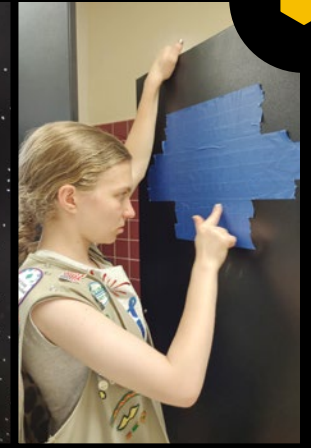
High school junior Felix Lindemann is committed to expanding coding opportunities to other girls.

creatively, technology, driven by passion. That's why Lindemann is committed to supporting or even leading education programs for girls.

Lindemann's personal commitment to expanding opportunities for girls goes back to middle school. He's been a member of the school's robotics team since 7th grade. He's also been a member of the school's coding club since 8th grade. "I'm really into coding and STEM," he says. "I want to help other girls get into it too."

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### ONLY IN NEWSIDAY

#### Summing it up

The Miller Place Center for an April 2022 event where girls will be able to learn from experts in the field. The event will be held at the Miller Place High School. The event will be held at the Miller Place High School. The event will be held at the Miller Place High School.

It was a hands-on day where girls learned about coding and STEM. The event was held at the Miller Place High School. The event was held at the Miller Place High School. The event was held at the Miller Place High School.

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## LI Hackers

LI Hackers (LIH)

LI Hackers' first Annual Hackathon, hosted with Girls Inc. of Long Island, occurred on 2022.

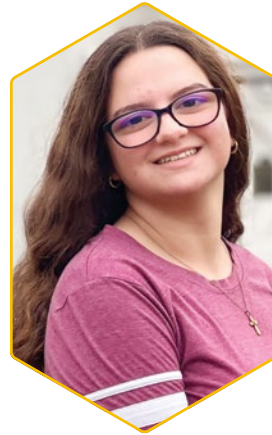
Saturday was a learning with workshops and Sunday gave girls an opportunity to present.





**Jessica Andrews**  
**Helping Hands**

Jessica addressed the issue of poverty and health for young adults by providing them with useful resources.



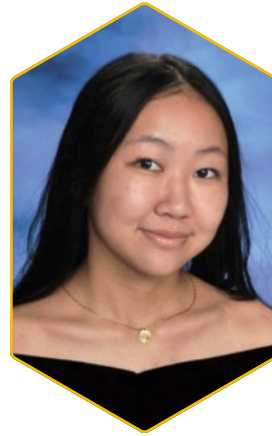
**Ashley Beck**  
**Cold Frames  
for a Cause**

Ashley built Cold Frames in her community's garden which extended availability of fresh food to those who needed it.



**Alexa Calvanese**  
**"Don't Stress, Worry Less"  
Youth Group Room**

Alexa created a space for neighborhood youth to congregate and improve interpersonal connections and mental health following the pandemic.



**Julianna Chin**  
**Golden Comfort**

Julianna created a digital activity book and painted inspirational messages on bluestones for patients, family, and staff of Stony Brook Children's Cancer Center.



**Sophie Crowley**  
**Providing Mobile Benches**

Sophie built mobile benches for the Long Island Cares Veterans Garden and constructed a palette fence for large gardening tools.



**Kaitlyn Dean**  
**Last Hope Animal Rescue**

Kaitlyn constructed utility carts and put together donation bags that included food, toys, and educational materials for newly adopted cats.



**Elysena DeStefano**  
**Outdoor Inspirational  
Classroom Library**

Elysena created an outdoor learning library with a teacher bench, platform, and inspirational signs for the preschoolers at the Suffolk Y JCC.



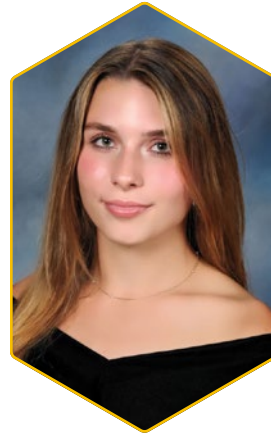
**Samantha Driscoll**  
**Sweetbriar Birdhouse Wall**

Samantha built birdhouses to provide nesting locations and shelter for the wren population at Sweetbriar Nature and Rehabilitation Center.



**Charlotte Falkman**  
**Signs of Support  
"There Is Help"**

A mental health themed project.



**Francesca Ferme**  
**Francesca's Little  
Free Library**

Francesca's Little Library gives community access to donate and borrow books. The slogan is "Take a book, leave a book."



**Madeline Gibbons**  
**Great South Bay Water  
Quality Awareness**

Madeline designed, constructed, and installed educational water quality signs to illustrate factors that impact water quality and how to improve our local environment.



**Alexis Huntington**  
**Greenlawn Clean up**

Alexis renovated 8 benches on Broadway in Greenlawn; She sanded, cleaned, fixed and painted all the benches & landscaped the area.



## **Karlee Krongel**

### **Emergency Service Sensory Bags**

Karlee created sensory bags for ambulances in local fire departments and a training on how to handle civilians with autism in emergencies.



## **Emily Lewin**

### **Save the Ferals, Help the Rescuers!**

Emily raised feral cat awareness in the community; She created brochures, built shelters for colonies, held donation drives and visited and cared for local colonies.



## **Lilah Lindemann**

### **Bridge To Coding**

Lilah established a coding club, workshops, and a virtual Hackathon (LI HackHers) to inspire middle school girls' exploration of computer science.



## **Angelina Longo**

### **Dog Etiquette Sign**

Angelina created dog etiquette signs to ensure dog safety in the local community and held educational classes.



## **Paige MacPherson**

### **Long Island Teens GIVE**

Paige created Long Island Teens GIVE, connecting local high school students to Long Island nonprofits to support organizational needs and increase student volunteer rates.



## **Anne Carole Mahanken**

### **Words of Inspiration**

Anne created inspirational sayings out of permanent vinyl & displayed them in the girls bathrooms at her high school.



## **Ava Mahoney**

### **Growing the Game of Field Hockey**

Ava provided equipment and a training for girls to play field hockey by running a free clinic. The game builds healthy relationships and teaches team bonding.



## **Talia Matonti**

### **A Path to Peace**

Talia created a meditation garden with lavender plants and seating area for the veterans at Warrior Ranch Foundation.



## **Nicole Menechella**

### **9/11 Remembrance Benches**

Nicole built benches and placed them in front of tree saplings from a tree found at ground zero.



## **Lauren Minasian**

### **Peace and Tranquility Circle at Kay Porter Park**

A mental health themed project.



## **Anna Munoz**

### **Calming Garden Center**

Anna built a garden and Adirondack chairs for a local prevention center.



## **Emma Peltier**

### **Elementary School GoFrench**

Emma created a storybook with a dictionary to introduce and encourage elementary school students to learn the French language.



## **Olivia Phillips**

### **Relaxing Sensory Space for Teens**

Olivia converted and renovated an existing den area in a group home into a relaxing space for the residents to enjoy.



## **Madeline Poulis**

### **Project Love**

An elderly issue themed project.



## **Amanda Purga**

### **The Power of Words**

Amanda provided inspirational words for those struggling with the residual mental and emotional stresses linked to the global pandemic at her high school.



## **Sophia Recine**

### **Respite for Dementia Families**

Sophia volunteered at Long Island Alzheimer's and Dementia Center's day care and painted a mural for them. She also created a poster with dementia care tips for caregivers.



## **Hannah Rinaldi**

### **Rec Room Reno**

A poverty issue themed project.



## **Daniela Schierle**

### **North Babylon Food Pantry Garden Fencing**

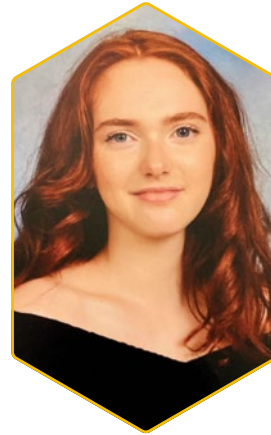
Daniela installed new fencing around the food pantry's garden to prevent unwanted visitors and to increase harvest for the community.



### **Arianna Schuman**

#### **Rebuild, Refresh, and Renew a Common Space**

Arianna fixed up two gardens for Angela's House, filled them with plants, trimmed bushes, and added a sentimental rock garden with decorations.



### **Mollie Sebor**

#### **The Story of the Jewish Community of Islip Town**

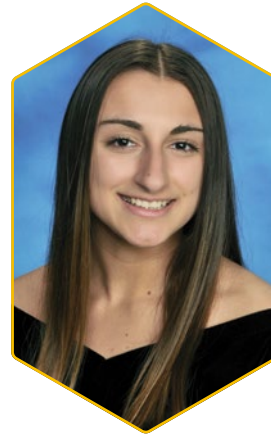
Mollie researched and put together a book and display of nine influential individuals with their biographies who helped to shape the Jewish community of Islip Town.



### **Holly Sugrue**

#### **Revamping Church Garden to be Eco-Friendly**

Holly revamped a garden to exemplify sustainable environments and inspire others to achieve a solution to environmental degradation.



### **Katie Turturro**

#### **Easy to Follow Recipes for Children with Special Needs**

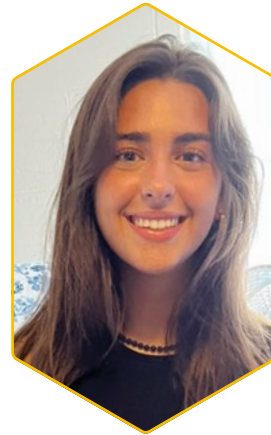
Katherine created picture-based recipes for William Floyd School District's special education students. She produced & donated 12 cookbooks to their Life Skills class.



### **Anika Varma**

#### **Yoga Mats for Youth**

Anika fundraised for the donation of yoga mats in India. The goal was to promote mental health initiatives in stigmatized areas.



### **Nina Varvatsas**

#### **Grab-and-Go OT Kits**

Nina supplied her local library with OT kits containing items targeting common motor deficiencies seen in children throughout the school district.



## **Alivia Vassallo**

### **Clothing Carts for Kids**

Alivia designed and built an indoor/outdoor cart for the collection and distribution of clothing to those in need.



## **Chloe Visnius**

### **Wilderness Awareness: Bird Feeding Station**

An environment & sustainability themed project.



## **Jennifer Weigand**

### **Stray Cat Protection and Awareness**

An animal themed project.



## **Caroline Woo**

### **Brighter Sunshine**

Caroline created a more colorful, art filled center for children to be inspired by creativity.



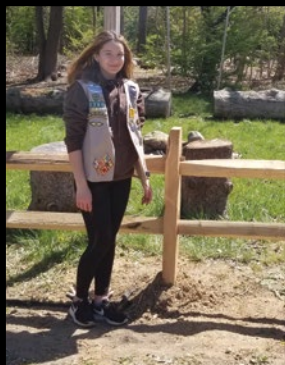
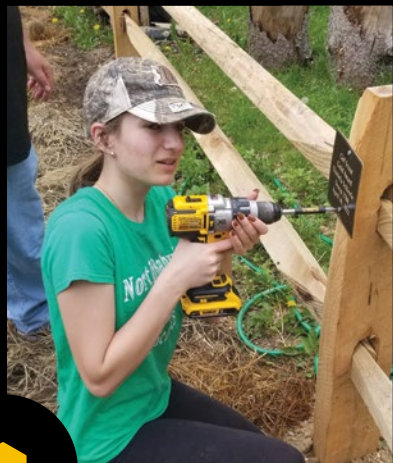
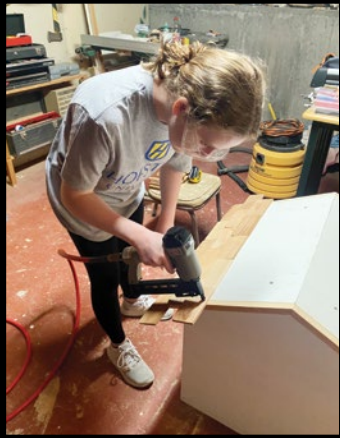
## **Natalie Zahn**

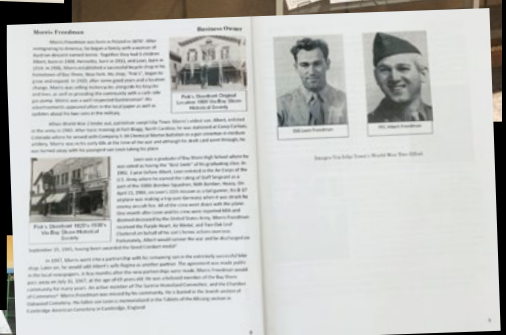
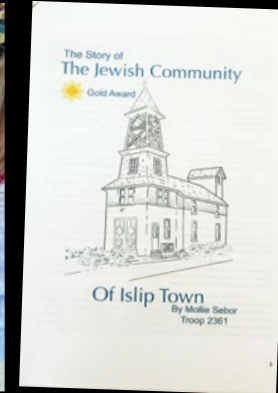
### **Blessing Box**

Natalie created a Blessing Box for non-perishable food and other products for anyone in need to take items and/or donate goods to share.









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## Girl Scouts of Suffolk County

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